

In re Patent Application of:  
GORTY  
Serial No. 10/776,423  
Filing Date: February 11, 2004

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REMARKS

Claims 1-42 have been cancelled. No claims have been amended. Claims 42-55 remain in this application. New claims 42-55 have been added.

Applicant resubmits the Amendment previously filed on November 1, 2007 because, according to the Examiner, the previous Remarks did not make a comparison between the newly added claims and previously applied references and how the new claims clarify the invention against the prior art of record such as by stating the claim limitations which are not disclosed/taught by the references.

At the outset, Applicant resubmits this Amendment with new independent system claim 42 and new independent method claim 50 as filed in the previous Amendment. Claims directed to the computer readable medium set forth in the previous Amendment, Claims 56-58, have been deleted.

This Amendment presents claims having one independent system claim and its dependent claims and one independent method claim and its dependent claims. Dependent claims 43-49 are the same as dependent claims originally filed with the application except claim 44 is a combination of previous dependent claims 4 and 5. The dependent method claims are the same as previous dependent claims that were filed with the application.

The new independent claims are presented in order to present independent claims that are more readable and directed to the novel and unobvious features of the claimed invention as compared to the previously filed system and method claims.

The new independent claim 42 directed to the system provides configuration data for a web service for remotely

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accessing electronic mail from the web service. A user system comprises a plurality of electronic mail (email) clients for accessing a respective plurality of source mailboxes. This user system includes a source of mailbox configuration data corresponding to the configuration parameters required to configure access to the plurality of source mailboxes. A web service is configured to allow a user to access the plurality of source mailboxes. Such web service is shown at 30a in FIG. 1.

A configuration module, for example, the configuration engine 50 in FIG. 1, is operative with both the user system as shown in FIG. 1 and the web service for automatically retrieving configuration parameters from the source of mailbox configuration data and transmitting the configuration parameters to the web service and allowing the web service to be configured to access the plurality of source mailboxes without user intervention. This configuration module is shown in greater detail in FIG. 2 and includes an import module having a plurality of mailbox import agents that correspond to the respective email clients at the user agent for retrieving mailbox configuration data from the source of mailbox configuration data at the user system and generating respective configuration data objects for each respective mailbox based on the configuration parameters. A web service interface module is also included and interfaces with the web service and to other source mailboxes or target mailboxes.

As noted in the previous Remarks, the Examiner rejects a number of claims as anticipated by Smith and Hutsch, and rejects other claims as obvious over Smith or the combination of various references, including Hutsch,

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Baranshamaje, a publication by Temple titled "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Microsoft Outlook 2000," DeBusk, Rajarajan and Slothouber.

The claimed invention solves the problem of managing multiple mailboxes in which separate mailboxes have a unique set of configuration parameters including the use of different mailbox protocols, giving rise to different sets of configuration parameters for each of the mailboxes. The technical problem solved by the claimed invention is directed to a user that determines these configuration parameters for each of the mailboxes and configures manually a web service associated with the web server to access each of the mailboxes. It, thus, acts as a pass-through service.

Smith discloses an email account compilation module 120 that generates data objects from email account information and formats and sends this information to the web services as so-called distributed object modules. Smith has a compilation module, but it does not have a configuration module as in the claimed invention that is operative with a web service and user system and automatically retrieves configuration parameters from the source of mailbox configuration data and transmits these configuration parameters to a web service as well as generating respective configuration data objects for each respective mailbox based on the configuration parameters.

The configuration module is operative with the user system and web service of the claimed invention to allow a user to access a source mailbox automatically without user intervention such that the user does not have to input numerous parameters.

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Serial No. 10/776,423  
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Smith is directed to the technical problem when people use multiple electronic email accounts that allow easier access to multiple mail accounts from a wireless device by having an email agent maintain a logged-in condition with at least two of a plurality of email accounts. A selection module accepts a selection of one of the plurality of logged-in email accounts for transferring the file information. A wireless subscriber may move back and forth between access to each of the plurality of email accounts without requiring repeated log-in/log-out of any of the email accounts by the wireless subscriber. The email applications such as 150 and 152 in Smith are defined and identified by a parameter stored in the corresponding email accounts information file maintained separately for each subscriber. Usually one default file as a default email account is used for a particular subscriber.

The user system, web service and configuration module as claimed with this Amendment, however, can be configured such that the configuration module automatically retrieves configuration parameters from the source of mailbox configuration data and transmits these configuration parameters to a web service or target mailbox (not the source mailbox) for allowing the web service or target mailbox to be configured to access the plurality of source mailboxes without user intervention.

As claimed, the import module has mailbox import agents that correspond to respective email clients at the user agent and retrieve mailbox configuration data from the source mailbox configuration data at the user system and generates respective configuration data objects for each respective

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mailbox based on the configuration parameters. Thus, the web service interface module interfaces with the web service and target mailboxes through the web service. These features are not set forth in Smith, which only shows the use of the email application and multiple email account compilation module 120 operative with the email application files.

As to Hutsch, it at most discloses a source of configuration data and some type of module that could be considered to retrieve some type of configuration data. It is specifically directed to a network portal system that includes a web-top manager and universal content broker system in which the network portal system allows the universal and integral use of different services by arbitrary client systems. This network portal system links a communications network and content provider with a web-top manager that receives a content request from the client. Each content provider will access content having a different raw data format. FIG. 1A in Hutsch shows the use of this network portal system. It nowhere discloses the use of the configuration module with the web service and the import modules having the plurality of mailbox import agents that correspond to the respective email clients at the user agent and retrieve mailbox configuration data from the source of mailbox configuration data at the user system and generate a respective configuration data objects for each respective mailbox based on the configuration parameters.

Baranshamaje is directed to portable email messaging that provides a user with a generalized web mail solution that works with any SMTP-POP/IMAP email server while keeping an email account private. A portable email account is activated

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that is not connected to the internet to allow a user to compose and/or read email messages and synchronize selected message folders and address book with a portable email account between two independent directory locations. This can be operated as a web mail. Baranshamaje solves the technical problem of synchronizing different email folders and other associated problems. When Baranshamaje is taken in combination with Temple, it would suggest a synchronization of email accounts with imported email settings from email clients on a computer, which is not the claimed invention and does not address the problems solved by the claimed invention presented in this Amendment. When taken in combination with DeBusk, it would only suggest an addition of an Active X control.

DeBusk is directed to modular tracking and profiling with information management software using Active X controls. Rajarajan with DeBusk would suggest XML formatting while Slothouber is directed to retrieving data over a network and formatting and displaying it on an associated display with data broadcast over a broadband network using a set-top-box or similar device.

These three references are further removed and disclose components that would be only bits and pieces of the overall system. Taken alone or in combination, they do not suggest the claimed invention presented in this Amendment.

Rajarajan discloses a processing unit with removable storage and some type of XML formatted files, but nowhere does it suggest the claimed invention with the features as described above and only suggests that well known XML files can be processed in email systems, such as in the cited references.

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Slothouber is further removed and teaches some type of web service soap compatible devices that can possibly be used with email systems.

Applicant contends that the claimed invention as now presented with these new claims is patentable over the cited prior art.

If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for placing this case in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

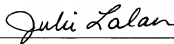


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